

Serial Number 09/852,866

Art Unit 1742

Docket 2950RCE

reductant, cellulose fiber, and 0% to 5% added water by weight of the mixture;  
compacting the mixture into green briquettes;  
feeding the green briquettes into a rotary hearth furnace; and  
heating the green briquettes at a temperature of from about 1000° C to about 1550°  
C for a period of 6 to 20 minutes, therein metallizing iron forming metallized briquettes.

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Cancel claims 3 and 14-20.

#### REMARKS

The pending claims are 1, 2 and 4-13. Independent claim 1 is amended, and claims 3, and 14-20 are canceled.

Claims 14-20 stand rejected in 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants have cancelled claims 14-20. The 112 rejection is respectfully overcome.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in light of Avotins et al. (US 5,464,465). Examiner cites Example 1, stating that moisture content of the iron ore is 8.70%, and the mixture including the iron ore may be 9.13% prior to the formation of the pellet, which indicates that less than 5% moisture was added. It would have been obvious to determine the optimum level or a workable range of water addition.

Applicants claim 0% to 5%<sup>1</sup> in claim 1. In cited Example 1, Avotins et al. (US

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<sup>1</sup>water added 0% - 5% (page 10, line 3)